

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring and congratulating the 7,500 members of the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) for their legacy of excellence in the promotion of justice. BASF is rooted in the 12th and 14th Congressional Districts of California, which Speaker Pelosi and I are privileged to represent. BASF has worked tirelessly to make the law work for our communities.

BASF is the third oldest bar association in the United States and its members first met on April 27, 1872. Over the following 150 years, BASF has grown into an institution characterized by innovation, entrepreneurship, and progressive thinking. In times of social and economic turmoil in San Francisco and our nation, BASF pioneered paths that were copied by other local bar associations.

Working for greater judicial efficiency, BASF has been instrumental in improving the California Code, guiding the organization and rules of local and state courts, establishing a Code of Ethics, and helping identify competent and fair judges. Today, BASF is a highly respected voice for mediation and alternative dispute resolution, criminal justice reform, judicial independence, court funding, and equal access to justice.

BASF consistently fights for the American promise of justice for all. In the early 20th century, it was among the first bar associations to mobilize its members to support the Legal Aid Society. It then continued to create ways to help those touched by homelessness, immigration status, family turmoil, and economic challenges. Today, the Justice & Diversity Center of BASF advances fairness and equity by providing pro bona legal services to low-income and homeless residents, and all those in times of crisis.

BASF also consistently fights for equal access to legal services. In 1946, BASF pioneered a referral service that studied cultural, political and economic realities to better identify those most in need of access to our justice system. These efforts blossomed into its Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS). Today, LRIS educates people about their legal rights and offers access to affordable and competent legal consultation and representation.

Equal opportunity in the legal profession is another priority for BASF. The bar association pioneered methods of diversity, equity, and inclusion. In the 1930s, BASF began a continuing legal education program that remains in strong demand as emerging areas of law demand expertise. BASF actively helped local firms and legal agencies with hiring, retention,

and promotion of those attorneys new to their legal careers, women, people of color, those who identify as LGBTQ, and people of differing physical abilities. The bar of San Francisco strives to reflect the community it serves.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in commending the Bar Association of San Francisco for its remarkable 150-year history promoting the causes of judicial efficiency, legal education, diversifying and strengthening the bar, and supporting all those who seek justice.

RECOGNIZING JAY STOUGH

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Joseph (Jay) C. Stough. Jay entered the Doylestown Fire Company Number 1 as a volunteer firefighter on March 1, 1972. Since that date, he has faithfully served the Doylestown community as a member of Fire Company Number 1 and the Doylestown Firefighters' Relief Association. Throughout Jay's time in this public service, he has held many positions within the fire company and the Relief Association's administration, including as President, Vice President and Treasurer. He continues to serve with distinction as the financial secretary of the Doylestown Fire Company.

This year, as Jay celebrates 50 consecutive years of fire company service, I would like to recognize him for his dedication and leadership, both of which provide immeasurable value to his community and have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues. We are grateful for the positive impact Jay has demonstrated throughout his time of extraordinary service and wish him countless blessings as he continues into his next decade with Doylestown Fire Company Number 1.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATE ALUMNAE OF DOUGLASS COLLEGE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College as its members commemorate its 100th anniversary this year.

The Associate Alumnae of Douglass College was founded by members of the Class of 1922, the first graduating class of the New Jersey College for Women (present day Douglass Residential College). Since that time, the

organization has continued to advance its mission to develop, promote and support Douglass alumnae.

The Associate Alumnae of Douglass College is led by a volunteer Board of Directors, all of whom are Douglass alumnae. Throughout its first century, the organization has been led by many distinguished alumnae, including Inez Phillips Durham, Victoria Dabrowski Schmidt, Evelyn Sermons Field, and its current President, Jeanne Fox.

Today, the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College consists of a network of over 39,000 women across the globe with a shared pursuit of lifelong learning. Through its programs, services and networks, the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College advances the personal and professional growth of its members. The organization provides opportunities to engage in both social and educational forums, fostering connections and empowering women. In addition to its programs, the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College oversees endowment funds, including the Douglass Fund, and ensures proper management and distribution.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College on its 100th anniversary. The organization has paved a successful path for generations of women and its efforts are truly deserving of this recognition.

HONORING JOHN AND KATHY LOGUE

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John and Kathy Logue, who are being honored as the 2022 Citizens of the Year for Moorestown, New Jersey. This year's award recognizes two Moorestown residents who have positively impacted the quality of life of our community.

John and Kathy moved to Moorestown in 1978 and immediately became involved in the community. Their collaborations touched the lives of many, and they have become familiar faces around town. Whether it was volunteering at neighborhood events, coaching sports teams, or leading a Girl Scout troop, their positivity radiates throughout our community. During the last 46 years, John and Kathy have volunteered with 9 and 11 different organizations respectively, in Moorestown and throughout New Jersey.

Starting his work in 1978 as the Moorestown Deputy Clerk, John became an active member of many committees and advisory boards. Totalling a combined 12 years of service, John played an integral role on the Planning Board; the Zoning Board; the Economic Development Advisory Committee; the Low and Moderate Income Housing Advisory Committee; Moorestown's Visioning Advisory

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Committee; and the Make It Moorestown Celebration Committee. In addition, John was an active member of the Moorestown Rotary Club and the Knights of Columbus Council 1082.

Similarly impressive, Kathy served as Vice President, Planning Board Alternate, and a member of the Appearance Committee for the Moorestown School Board for more than a decade. Kathy was also a Board Member and Secretary of the Moorestown Business Association from 2006 to 2009. Her most recent community work involves her contributions to Percheron Park and her involvement on the Moorestown Tree Planting and Preservation Committee.

For almost five decades, whether they were together or apart, John and Kathy they have been integral participants in Moorestown's volunteer community and have been described as an inspiration to everyone around them. I am proud to congratulate them both for winning this award and thank them for their continued service to our community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR.
JOHNNIE ANDERSON JONES, SR.,
ESQ.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, today, I want to recognize the extraordinary life of Dr. Johnnie Anderson Jones, Sr., Esq. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a Civil Rights Lawyer, and World War II Veteran, at the tender age of 102 on April 23, 2022.

Dr. Jones was born November 30, 1919, in Laurel Hill, Louisiana and raised on Rosemound Plantation by his parents, who farmed 73 acres of land but insisted that their son get an education. He attended a two-room schoolhouse and became interested in the law, he said, when a teacher gave him a book by Charles Evans Hughes, then the Chief Justice of the United States.

"While we were out in the fields picking cotton, I would be thinking about what I read in that book," Mr. Jones told the Advocate of Baton Rouge. "I couldn't stand the sight of people picking cotton . . . Everything it represented."

Mr. Jones enrolled at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, planning to major in industrial education. He was 24 years old, a future civil rights lawyer not yet graduated from college, when he landed on the beaches of Normandy in the D-Day invasion of 1944. He was tasked with unloading equipment during the Normandy invasion.

He became the Army's first African-American warrant officer. He was assigned to a unit responsible for unloading equipment and supplies onto Normandy.

He nearly died before his ship reached the shore, when the explosion of a mine sent him flying "sky high into the air," he recalled, and onto an upper deck. He again almost died when he came under German sniper fire on Omaha Beach.

When Mr. Jones returned home to Louisiana, he was greeted not with a hero's welcome, but rather with all the indignities of segregation in the Jim Crow South.

Riding a bus with fellow U.S. servicemen, Mr. Jones, who was African

American, was forced to sit in the back of the coach. He was driving to New Orleans to have shrapnel removed from his neck when a White police officer, entirely unprovoked, pulled him over and began assaulting him.

"He knocked me down and started kicking me," he said. "Things weren't right. 'Separate but equal' was unconstitutional, and I wanted to fight it and make it better."

Mr. Jones did so by enrolling in law school and becoming a lawyer in the early years of the civil rights movement. Mr. Jones was credited with fighting legal battles on multiple fronts of the movement for racial equality.

He worked with voter leagues and with civil rights organizations; including the NAACP and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). He assisted demonstrators who participated in lunch-counter sit-ins. During that time, his car was bombed on two separate occasions.

After the 1954 Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which outlawed segregation in public schools, he helped accompany about 30 Black children to a White elementary school in Baton Rouge, historian Adam Fairclough wrote in the volume "Race and Democracy: The Civil Rights Struggle in Louisiana, 1915–1972."

But Mr. Jones played perhaps his most significant role in the 1953 Baton Rouge bus boycott, a long-overlooked event that helped inspire the landmark boycott two years later in Montgomery, Ala., prompted by the arrest of Rosa Parks. Mr. Jones was only two weeks out of law school in June 1953 when the Rev. T.J. Jemison, a founding member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, invited him to represent the organizers of the effort in Baton Rouge.

"I told him, 'That's an awfully big suit to fill,'" Mr. Jones recalled to a reporter in 2015. "But he said, 'Nonsense, Brother Jones, you can do it.'"

The Baton Rouge demonstration was touched off when Martha White, an African-American housekeeper, ignited a controversy by taking a seat in a section of a public bus reserved for White riders. During the eight-day boycott that followed, activists organized carpools that allowed participants to travel to and from work without riding city buses. Eighty percent of the city's bus ridership at the time was African American. The boycott ended with the partial desegregation of city buses, with the front two rows of seats reserved for White people and the last two rows for Black people. While some protesters had hoped for a more dramatic outcome, historians today describe the Baton Rouge boycott as a prototype of others to come.

"Almost unnoticed at the time," the Baton Rouge protest "was a direct precursor of the Montgomery bus boycott," Fairclough wrote, "and an event of major significance in the evolution of the civil rights movement."

Upon his return to the United States, he resumed his studies and changed his major to psychology, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1949. He received a law degree, also from Southern University, in 1953.

Mr. Jones served briefly in the Louisiana House of Representatives in the 1970s. He continued practicing law into his 90s.

Mr. Jones was predeceased by his four children, Johnnie A. Jones Jr., Adal Jones, Adair Jones and Ann Jones. Survivors include many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

During his service in World War II, Mr. Jones sustained shrapnel wounds that he would bear for the rest of his life.

"The doctor told me it would really hurt in 75 years, but I wouldn't have to worry about that," he bravely discussed. "I fooled him. It hurts, and I'm still picking it out of my head and arm. A piece came out just above my left eye yesterday."

He waited nearly eight decades for his service to be recognized with a Purple Heart, receiving the award only last year. The long delay was symbolic of what he saw as the slow move toward justice in the civil rights movement.

His heroism will be forever marked in our lives. I am proud to say the life he lived paved the way for me to enjoy the accomplishments I have endured following his footsteps. I will continue to work for the citizens of Louisiana, as Dr. Jones did, always striving to make life better in our community.

HONORING DAVID MCWILLIAM
RASER

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David McWilliam Raser, a hardworking and dedicated staff member of the House Appropriations Committee, who suddenly passed away on February 5th of this year.

Son of David and Denise Raser, Dave was born in Long Island, New York on May 3, 1997. Just a few years later, the Rasers added another member to the family, Emily, who would become Dave's best friend. In the early 2000s, the family headed for warmer weather, moving from New York to Naples, Florida.

Dave grew to become an accomplished young man in his academic, athletic, and service endeavors. He spent much of his time outdoors, whether fishing, hiking, or playing team sports. In fact, Dave and his rugby team—the Naples Bears—went on to win State in 2014. He continued his pursuit of fitness into his professional life, running a marathon and surpassing his goal of running 1,000 miles in 2021.

In high school, he joined the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, where he rose to the rank of Battalion Commander. Because of his leadership and achievements, Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART nominated Dave to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

As fate would have it, Dave instead attended Louisiana State University, where he would receive a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, specializing in American government and politics. Before graduating, Dave served as a summer intern for Congressman Thomas Rooney, where he learned the legislative process firsthand, and shortly after receiving his diploma in 2019, Dave moved to Washington, D.C. with hopes of obtaining a full-time position in Congress.

Dave joined the House Appropriations Committee as an intern in 2019 and did such great work that he officially joined my committee staff in 2020. In his role, he served as the ultimate utility player, always willing and eager to assist when needed, regardless of the task at hand. Whether it was preparing materials for hearings and briefings or assisting staff with

reviewing legislation, he worked just as hard as anyone and did so with a heart of gratitude and service. Dave always had a smile on his face and a joyful spirit that uplifted others. He truly made a positive impact on everyone he interacted with.

At the age of 24, Dave passed away just days shy of his two-year work anniversary. Joined by family, friends, and committee staff, his funeral service was held at the same chapel he was baptized in as a child.

Today, May 3rd, would have been Dave's 25th birthday. In honor of his birthday, we celebrate his life and remember the incredible son, brother, and friend he was. Words cannot express how saddened we are at the loss of someone so young and so kind. Dave is dearly missed by his colleagues. On behalf of Congress and the Appropriations Committee, I offer my deepest condolences to Dave's family and friends.

HONORING OF JAMES MABE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of James Mabe of Abingdon, Virginia, who passed away on April 10, 2022, at the age of 66. Mr. Mabe was a well-known voice in the community as a radio host for more than 30 years.

Mr. Mabe was born on April 30, 1955, to Eugene and Easter Mabe. He was educated at Fort Chiswell High School. He always held a great love for music. As a young man, he performed with many local bands and worked in his family's truck stop until he started in radio. His first on-air appearance was with a station in Pulaski, Virginia, in 1983. He went on to be a voice in radio for more than three decades but spent most of his career as the host of the "More Music Morning Show" in Marion, Virginia.

His voice was in the ears of community members in their homes, on their daily commutes, and during their workdays. His candor and lively personality made it easy for him to connect with his listeners. He was known for his witty one-liners. He loved his job and the ability to reach so much of the community. In 2020, the American Advertising Federation of Southwest Virginia awarded him the Silver Medal for Lifetime Achievement.

Mr. Mabe was predeceased in death by his parents; his sister, Janie Mabe; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, WR and Evangeline Humphreys. He is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Annette Mabe; daughters, Kaci Willis and her husband, Jon; Stacey Burton and partner, Jesse Blevins; and Jenny Mabe; grandchildren Caleb, Jaden, Noah, Laine, Avery, Archer and Gunner; brother, Gerald Mabe and wife, Kathy; as well as many other beloved friends and family, including many listeners of his show. I offer my condolences to them on the loss of this great man.

HONORING JEFF PRICE OF MILLIKEN AND COMPANY

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS, IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Jeff Price on his well-earned retirement from Milliken and Company, headquartered in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Milliken, a global leader in textiles and materials science, has a clear commitment to innovation, growth and leadership—which makes it a tough place to stand out. Yet, for 43 years, Jeff Price has done exactly that.

Jeff joined Milliken after graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1979. Jeff started in Milliken on the plant floor and worked as a business manager before he was selected to run an essential division at Milliken: the global airbag and non-woven automotive division. Think about that level of responsibility. Countless South Carolinians, countless Americans, rely on airbags every day to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. We don't think about it when we get in our cars, to go to work or school or soccer practice, but we know we can do so with the highest level of safety because of the work of Jeff Price and his teams at Milliken.

Jeff's demonstrated success in airbags and non-woven automotive led him to serving as president of Milliken's textile business, where he continued to focus on innovation and solutions-driven leadership. In that role, he co-chaired the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC) and was instrumental in the decision to merge AMTAC with the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO), where he also served as Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Board member.

In 2019, after Jeff had held 13 different roles at the company, Milliken CEO Halsey Cook tapped Jeff to stand up a new position—Executive Vice President of Operations—where he oversees corporate logistics and sourcing, environmental health and safety, corporate engineering and global security. If that sounds like a lot, that is because it is. Jeff's leadership in both manufacturing and general management make him an effective strategic leader in global operations for the company, and, by extension, for all communities in South Carolina and around the world where Milliken has locations.

Earlier this year, Jeff's decades of success at Milliken were recognized when he was awarded the Roger Milliken Award—an exclusive recognition that honors individuals who have created lasting and measurable differences within the company and have built a legacy of their own at Milliken.

Yet, greater than all the achievements and professional success I have shared, Jeff is the loving husband of Terri, proud father of Jennifer (husband Amine) and Christopher (wife Amanda), and grandfather of eight. I know his family joins me in celebrating his accomplishments for Milliken in and out of the manufacturing plant. Terri, pastor at Providence Presbyterian Church in Powdersville, South Carolina, is also retiring this year.

I am pleased to be joined by Representatives TOM RICE (SC–02), JEFF DUNCAN (SC–03), RALPH NORMAN (SC–05) in honoring Jeff Price as he prepares for his well-earned retire-

ment from Milliken and Company at the end of this year. Congratulations and Godspeed.

REMEMBERING ANDREW CRESCI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Andrew Cresci, a remarkable man who recently passed away at the age of 82. Andy did what only a few souls dream to accomplish: He housed people, offering them a chance at the American Dream.

My district is populated by homes immortalized by Pete Seeger and Malvina Reynolds in the song "Little Boxes." Andy Cresci and his hearty employees built thousands of those "little boxes" on the hillsides of Daly City, along the streets of South San Francisco, and throughout Hercules. However, let's set the record straight: Pete Seeger and Malvina Reynolds were wrong. These homes were well built, beloved by their first owners, and are proudly owned by the current generation of homeowners.

The Standard Building Company/Sunstream Homes began in the 1920s and was a thriving company when Andy Cresci started as an architect in the 1960s. He eventually took over as CEO after the founders, Carl and Fred Gellert, retired. Sunstream built dreams. In the Serramonte neighborhood, in South San Francisco and Hercules, thousands of affordable homes ready-made for proud ownership were constructed. Andy Cresci required that homes be built to satisfy every customer. One former employee noted that while he was with the company—over decades—he and his team never set foot in a courtroom due to a customer complaint. They would often return after the warranty had expired to fix anything that was of concern. Every Sunstream home has a license plate-like piece of metal, typically in the garage, identifying its number in the long series of homes built by Sunstream. So, if you bought the 4,352nd Sunstream home, you knew that there were 4,351 satisfied customers who came before you.

We often hear today of companies that refuse to share their success with employees. Sunstream was different. Many employees made investments alongside management, even as little as \$600, and received significant returns on their investments. Andy ran a prudent operation that delivered value to both customers and employees. In later years, as opportunities to purchase large tracts of land dwindled, he had a sharp eye for infill development opportunities and looked for surplus public lands.

He wasn't all about work. Andy loved golf and for many years he belonged to the "Dew Sweepers," a group of fellow golfers who played courses very early in the morning, typically at Poplar Creek. The loser had to buy everyone else french fries. At home, his "man cave" included three TVs so that he could watch baseball, golf, and basketball, but especially the 49ers. He was a season ticket holder. He travelled widely, loved such disparate music as ABBA, Elvis Presley and Queen, and of course he enjoyed Italian classics.

Andy Cresci had a dry wit and a wet garden. A friend reports that he had five or six

varieties of tomatoes and harvested a bountiful crop each year.

Andy left his mark in many remarkable ways, but most notably through his personal and voluntary philanthropic efforts. He served on the Board of Directors of the Gellert Foundation. Over the decades, he and his fellow board members donated many millions of dollars, chiefly to education, but also to youth programs and seniors. We will probably never know how much he donated through his own charitable giving, but it is said to have been a significant sum. Always concerned about putting a roof over the head of someone or something, he designed and built birdhouses, made from wooden wine boxes, and he donated these birdhouses to charity where they sold at fundraisers. His philanthropy included the Fallen Heroes Memorial in the City of San Mateo, the Wounded Warrior Project, and the San Mateo Police Activities League.

Andy Cresci was the proud father of Lisa Christensen, the father-in-law of John Christensen, and the stepfather of Nicole Pobuta Aquino (Miguel), Kristen Pobuta Iwata (Nick), the grandfather of Nicolas and Anthony Christensen, and the step-grandfather of Carson Iwata. He was predeceased by his first wife Kathy Cresci and survived by my friend and the former Mayor of San Mateo, Maureen Freschet.

Madam Speaker, a long life leads to many accomplishments arising from opportunities. Most people seize opportunities that arrive by chance, but a few people also spend their lives creating opportunities. Andy Cresci was the latter. He was a doer and a dreamer. Without question, and for tens of thousands of customers, friends and family members, Andy Cresci made a difference for the better in our community. He was the personification of patriotism. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MS. DENISE SMITH

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Denise Smith of Canton, Michigan, upon her 70th birthday. Ms. Smith is a tireless community servant and personal friend who has dedicated her life to advancing many social and political causes that are critically important to the people of Michigan's 11th Congressional District and the greater Metropolitan Detroit community. The entire Nation benefits from the work of Ms. Smith, and it is a pleasure to join her family and friends in celebrating and thanking her today upon achieving this significant milestone.

Ms. Denise Smith grew up in Waterford, Michigan and has continued to make Southeast Michigan her home for many years since. She spent much of her career with Ford Motor Company in corporate finance, retiring after 25 years, in 2014. In addition to the full-time commitment of maintaining a family and career, Ms. Smith found great pleasure in serving her community through volunteering and grassroots organizing. She was inspired to lead a life of service by her experience as a child, watching her parents offer help to anyone in need. This instilled in Denise a strong sense

of service, leading to her affiliation with many local organizations throughout her life that have the mission of helping others.

Among the many causes that Ms. Smith has taken up, she has worked to support and advocate for survivors of domestic and sexual violence with First Step Michigan, address the gun violence epidemic with Moms Demand Action, and organize and distribute clothing to those in need as a high school clothing bank volunteer. Expanding the scope of her activism, Ms. Smith was drawn to assist with the election of Barack Obama, serving as a volunteer for his 2008 campaign. Ms. Smith loves sharing her enthusiasm for her community by making phone calls to engage voters, assembling yard signs to remind neighbors of the upcoming election, and overseeing campaign offices and their administration. She also served on the board of the Canton Democratic Club and was Treasurer of the Township Treasurer's campaign. Because of her tireless efforts, she was deservedly awarded the 2013 Grassroots Activist Award from her local Democratic Party organization.

Along with being a prolific local activist, Ms. Smith is proud to be a mother and grandmother. Her beloved son, Sam Plymale (Chelsea Plymale) of Livonia, Michigan, and daughter, Sarah Plymale-Ponza (Victor Ponza) of Portland, Oregon, have brought her great joy in welcoming two lovely grandchildren, Annabelle Plymale and Zadian Ponza; she is also thrilled for another grandson, Joseph Plymale, to join the family this June. Being a mother and grandmother motivates Ms. Smith's efforts to extend beyond rhetoric, as she translates her passion into action that is certain to leave our nation a better place for future generations.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Denise Smith has dedicated herself to helping others and has improved the lives of countless individuals within Michigan's 11th Congressional District and beyond. Her acts of kindness as a servant leader have an impact that will positively influence our community and Nation long into the future. It is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Denise Smith upon her 70th birthday and to thank her for the years of service on behalf of her fellow Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICK YOST

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Mr. Rick Yost, the Superintendent of Fredericksburg Christian School. Rick has faithfully served as Superintendent since 2004. Each year, Rick's love for Fredericksburg Christian School and commitment to the students has grown exponentially. A polished leader and expert communicator, Rick worked tirelessly throughout his time as Superintendent to educate the next generation of Christian Americans and prepare them for a life of amazing opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Rick Yost. Words alone cannot express the positive impact he has had on the next generation. May

God bless the next phase of Rick's journey and continue to guide him in all his endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARIA GUADALUPE "LUPITA" AGUILAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Guadalupe "Lupita" Aguilar.

Maria Guadalupe "Lupita" Aguilar was born and raised in Laredo, TX. A proud daughter of a WWII Veteran and a farmworker turned seamstress, Lupita was taught about the values of community and service at an early age.

Lupita honorably graduated from Nixon High School and Laredo Community College and made a career in the service industry—working in housing and health care spaces primarily focusing on servicing low-income, Latino families throughout Laredo and Webb County.

The biggest accomplishment of her life has been being a mother of four grown children who are in their late 20's and early 30's: Jorge "Georgie" Aguilar, Jaime "JB" Aguilar, Lorena Aguilar, and Randy Aguilar. Watching them graduate from college, start a job and form their own families has been a blessing. Guided by her Catholic faith, positive mentality and optimism, Lupita has surmounted many challenges in the past including beating breast cancer twice.

During her free time, Lupita enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, cooking and traveling when she gets the opportunity. She and her husband reside in Rio Bravo, TX—just blocks away from the Rio Grande—where they've lived for over 20 years.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Maria Guadalupe "Lupita" Aguilar.

HONORING CHARLES MINOT DOLE FOR HIS FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL SKI PATROL AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the extraordinary life of Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole. Minnie Dole played a pivotal role in founding the National Ski Patrol and creating the 10th Mountain Division as we know it today.

Minnie Dole was born in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts on April 18, 1899. He attended Phillips Academy and then graduated Yale in 1923. Mr. Dole was an outdoor enthusiast and a member of the prestigious New York amateur Ski Club. He recognized the need for an organization that would supply first aid and rescue support at ski races and downhill skiing venues, so he established the National Ski Patrol in 1938 and served as its national director until 1950. His leadership and vision allowed for greater safety, accessibility, and enjoyment in skiing. Thanks to Mr. Dole's contributions, the National Ski Patrol is the largest

rescue organization in the world, and its members are world renowned.

During World War II, Mr. Dole convinced the United States War Department that success against the Germans in the mountainous Italian terrain required troops trained in mountaineering. His persistence led to the formation of the United States Army Ski Troopers in the 10th Mountain Division. After intense training in skiing and climbing, the 10th Mountain Division deployed to Northern Italy and began a series of daring and successful assaults against the German army in the northern Apennine Mountains of Italy, proving Mr. Dole to be correct.

Minnie Dole has made an indelible impact on the National Ski Patrol and the 10th Mountain Division. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to remember and celebrate the life of Minnie Dole. The contributions he has made to the safety and security of Americans through the 10th Mountain Division and the National Ski Patrol cannot be overstated.

CELEBRATING MR. ALVIN BROOKS'
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor Mr. Alvin Brooks for his decades of service to Missouri's Fifth Congressional District and to congratulate him on his most recent milestone: his 90th birthday. Having spent a lifetime advancing civil and human rights, Alvin Brooks is a Kansas City legend who has been recognized in both chambers of Congress. On this momentous occasion, it is once again worth reflecting on Al's inspiring narrative.

Born into poverty during the early years of the Great Depression, Alvin and his family struggled to make ends meet. Coming of age during a time when legal segregation was still yet to be declared unconstitutional, Alvin never forgot the lessons he learned while navigating the injustices of Jim Crow. Firsthand knowledge of the country's racial caste system, and the oppressive measures used to uphold it, generated within him a deep desire for justice and a strong sense of right and wrong. Alvin understood the importance of Black Americans being represented in all professional fields, particularly law and politics. It is only fitting, then, that he became one of Kansas City's only Black police officers in the 1950s. Not only that, but he also founded the AdHoc Group Against Crime—a grassroots organization dedicated to reducing violence, solving crimes, and bringing about healing—and later organized the city's Human Relations Department, making him the first Black department head in Kansas City government.

Alvin continued to inspire. He was twice elected to City Council, served as the Mayor Pro Tem, and came within 851 votes of becoming Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri. Alvin chaired city's the Public Safety Committee, the Police Capital Improvements Oversight Committee, the Police Site Selection Committee, and was vice-chair of the Aviation Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee. Whatever his station, though, Alvin was always a

man of the people. He opposed racism in all its forms, brought justice to the community, and prioritized fairness and equality. "Hate the sin, love the sinner"—that is Alvin. Through it all, he kept his roots. His work in Kansas City, though, is demonstrative of the work we need to do in communities all across America. Justice, fairness, and human rights: these are neither specific to locale nor timeframe. They are universal and eternal.

President George H.W. Bush appointed Alvin to the President's National Drug Advisory Council. He was one of President Bush's "Thousand Points of Light,"—a select group of Americans who were recognized for volunteering in cities and towns across the country—serving in that capacity for three years. Understanding the devastating impact that the influx of drugs inflicted on underserved communities, Alvin worked tirelessly to steer others away from substance abuse. Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed him to the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners, where he used his seat at the table to advocate for the fair meting of justice. Alvin is also the fortysecond recipient of the Harry S. Truman Award for Public Service, the highest honor awarded by the City of Independence, Missouri. His name is on that list along with some quite notable company: Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Bill Clinton, to name just a few. I would be remiss not to mention Alvin's five honorary doctorates as well.

Aside from the work itself and all the accolades, Alvin has always sought to educate and inspire the next generation. He has served on boards of many community organizations, nonprofits, and businesses, sharing his knowledge and experience. His work as a motivational speaker, lecturer, and conductor of seminars and workshops has ensured that leaders in all fields are not only aware of how far our country has come, but of the work that still remains. Indeed, his passion for education bears out in his work with universities throughout my district. The next generation has a great example in Alvin, and his ninety years on Earth offer a gold mine of invaluable lessons.

As we celebrate his 90th birthday and distinguished career, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Alvin Brooks. Here's to many more.

RECOGNIZING VICTOR SIX HEALTH
AND FITNESS ORGANIZATION

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a groundbreaking Veterans' Service Group in my District, Victor Six Health and Fitness Organization. Victor Six was founded by decorated Vietnam Veteran, David A. Christian, with the mission to improve the physical and mental health of Veterans in the community.

On April 24, 2022, I had the honor of celebrating the graduation of Victor Six's inaugural class. The course promoted the mutual improvement of the physical health and mental well-being of the Veterans, fulfilling the mantra that a strong body fuels a strong mind. This was made possible by a partnership with the Newtown Athletic Club, which graciously of-

fered their space, equipment, and personnel to the program. Nine Veterans, ranging from 39 to 74 years of age, completed a rigorous 12-week physical training program. The nine Veterans are:

Ronald Warren Brand, United States Army
Robert Peter Cassalia, United States Navy
Daniel Marion Christian, United States Army
William Charles Farence, United States Marine Corps

Carla Estelle Figuerora, United States Marine Corps

James Taylor Ford, United States Army
Tanya Marie Rinkus, United States Air Force

William Patrick Schultz, United States Air Force

Rodney Darnell Wyatt, United States Marine Corps

Participants completed pre- and post-assessment measures of upper and lower body, core strength, cardio endurance, and flexibility as well as a self-evaluation of their mental status. An individualized personal training plan for each Veteran was formulated by trainers based on their assessments. The Veterans were introduced to various private group exercise classes such as aqua exercise, yoga, dance, strength, and cardio training.

The program built camaraderie and esprit de corps by providing a safe haven from stressors and improving the mental well-being of all. In the continuing battle against Veteran and Servicemember suicide, organizations like Victor Six provide the tools necessary to fight back and give hope to our Nation's heroes. We are incredibly grateful for the positive impact that this organization has already had on our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LONG
BRANCH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
10TH ANNUAL LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Senator CORY BOOKER, Veronica Buffalo-Stubbs, Peggy Cadigan, Sergeant Kimberly Leavy and Monmouth Medical Center as they were recognized as Library Champions by the Long Branch Free Public Library on April 29, 2022.

Each year, the Long Branch Free Public Library recognizes those who are committed to the success of the library, and libraries in general, with its Library Champions Dinner and Awards. These individuals and entities promote library programs and resources and support its objectives. Senator BOOKER, Veronica Buffalo-Stubbs, Peggy Cadigan, Sergeant Kimberly Leavy and Monmouth Medical Center are truly deserving of the Library's Champion distinction.

As a United States Senator from New Jersey, Senator CORY BOOKER continues to advance legislation that directly impacts our state and residents. In addition to introducing and supporting legislation benefitting children, immigrants and veterans, Senator BOOKER co-sponsored the Build America's Libraries Act. His efforts to advance underserved populations, improve library access and internet

connectivity for all individuals, and support community improvements embody the mission of the Long Branch Free Public Library. He has also recognized the value of libraries, and the Long Branch Free Public Library in particular, supporting the New Jersey State Library's IMLS Leadership Grant and nominating the Long Branch Free Public Library twice for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

A Long Branch native currently residing in Neptune, New Jersey, Veronica Buffalo-Stubbs is an active member of both communities and recognizes the importance of civic engagement. Ms. Buffalo-Stubbs is the founder and CEO of A.S.T.E.P. (After School Tutorial Educational Program), a tutoring, enrichment and mentoring program for local students and volunteers her time with the Second Baptist Church of Long Branch, the Long Branch Chamber of Commerce, the Girl Scouts of New Jersey, and the Long Branch Elks Lodge No. 742, among others. She is also a 30-year employee of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command and has previously worked as a youth counselor for the Monmouth County Juvenile Detention Center, substitute teacher and a certified nurse's assistant/home health aide.

Throughout her library career, Peggy Cadigan demonstrated a remarkable commitment to her profession and the community. Recently retired from the New Jersey State Library after nearly 20 years as Deputy State Librarian for Innovation, Ms. Cadigan previously served as a Reference Librarian and a Junior Library Assistant at the Ocean County Library. Her knowledge and experience were well-regarded in the field. She gave valuable presentations throughout the United States and to remote audiences abroad and served as a consultant for the libraries of Dubai. Her vision, encouragement and support has helped other libraries improve their programs and adapt to societal changes and advancing technologies. Additionally, Ms. Cadigan expanded the Fresh Start re-entry program launched by the Long Branch Free Public Library.

In her positions with the Long Branch Police Department, Sergeant Kimberly Leavy has been engaged in community programs. During her time as a Detective, she was focused on matters involving juveniles and currently serves in the Urban Enterprise Unit as a Community Police Officer in the Patrol Division. Through her role as a Community Police Officer and her work with National Night Out and the Citizens' Police Academy, Sgt. Leavy continues to enhance the relationship between the community and the police force. She has served as a Liaison Officer for many community organizations and has collaborated with the Long Branch School District and the Long Branch Free Public Library, promoting mutual programs and participating in educational presentations.

Monmouth Medical Center continues to provide outstanding health care services to the greater Long Branch community and has been a valuable partner of the Long Branch Free Public Library. Working with Monmouth Medical Center, in particular Eric Carney, CEO and President, Jean McKinney, Regional Director of Community Health, Social Impact and Community Investment, and Sylvia Jacobs, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, the Long Branch Free Public Library has expanded their programs and improved their community outreach.

Public libraries are an integral part of our communities, and it is my honor to join with the Long Branch Free Public Library in recognizing the contributions of Senator CORY BOOKER, Veronica Buffalo-Stubbs, Peggy Cadigan, Sergeant Kimberly Leavy and Monmouth Medical Center.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RHONDA FERGUSON

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I honor the life and memory of Rhonda Ferguson, and express my deepest condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

A Northeast Ohio native, Rhonda was an incredibly accomplished woman. She was the first in her family to graduate college, graduating from Northwestern University with a degree in Industrial Engineering. She then earned her Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University. It came as no surprise to those who knew her that Rhonda went on to have an extremely successful, storied career.

In 2019, Black Enterprise magazine named Rhonda one of the most powerful Black women in corporate America. The following year, she was hired as the Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel and Secretary of the Allstate Corporation. Her colleagues warmly refer to her as a visionary force and a passionate friend, coach and mentor whose leadership helped ignite Allstate's transformation and create societal impact.

However, Rhonda's legacy as a well-respected mentor and trailblazer in the workplace would be incomplete without her unwavering commitment to her family. Rhonda cared deeply for her husband, Clayton, and their two children, Kristen and Clayton. I have no doubt that her memory will live on through all of them.

Kelly and I offer our prayers and condolences to Rhonda's husband, their children, and her parents, as well as her extended family and friends as they navigate their tragic loss during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and memory of Rhonda Ferguson.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECOVER ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Reducing the Effects of the Cyberattack on OPM Victims Emergency Response Act of 2022, or the RECOVER Act, which would require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make permanent the free identity protection coverage that Congress required OPM to provide for 10 years to individuals whose Social Security Numbers were potentially compromised during the OPM data

breaches. In 2015, OPM reported that the personally identifiable information of as many as 25.7 million current, former and prospective federal employees and contractors was stolen in two data breaches. I appreciate that Representative C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER is co-leading on this bill.

After OPM announced that it would offer identity protection coverage of limited duration and value, Senator BEN CARDIN and I introduced the RECOVER Act in July 2015, which would have provided affected individuals lifetime protection and at least \$5 million in identity theft insurance. Congress subsequently passed a version of our bill as part of an appropriations bill, but limited the duration of the protection. Under current law, OPM is only required to provide identity protection coverage through fiscal year 2026. Under the bill I am introducing today, OPM would be required to provide coverage for the remainder of the lives of affected individuals.

The current coverage is inadequate, particularly considering that there is no limit to when the stolen data may be exploited. Therefore, there should be no limit on the duration of the coverage provided to affected individuals. This bill would give current, former and prospective federal employees and contractors who were affected both some peace of mind and protection. OPM failed to protect these people. It follows that the government must make up for its mistake.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

RECOGNIZING MR. RALPH WHITE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (GAO)

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, as the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I would like to recognize an outstanding public servant, Mr. Ralph White, who has dedicated his career to providing bidders for government contracts with an expeditious means to seek accountability, and to maintaining a high rate of effectiveness in the bid protest process. Mr. White will retire on May 29, 2022, after a distinguished, 39-year career in public service, including serving 33 years at the Government Accountability Office (GAO), where he is currently a Managing Associate General Counsel for the Procurement Law division.

As a Senate staffer during the beginning of his career, Mr. White was instrumental in the drafting of the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984, which established the authority for GAO's bid protest function, under which hundreds of bid protests are filed each year. Mr. White joined GAO in 1989 as a writing attorney/hearing officer in the Procurement Law division and was promoted in 2010 to lead a team of attorneys as an Assistant General Counsel. Since becoming a Managing Associate General Counsel, responsible for GAO's bid protest decision-making authority, Mr. White has successfully led GAO's Procurement Law division to resolve numerous large

and complicated bid protests with a consistently high effectiveness rate and has been recognized by the government contracting community as a preeminent legal expert and trusted mentor. Mr. White is regularly sought out to speak and provide insights into the bid protest process throughout the government, academia, and industry. Throughout his tenure, Mr. White has managed the resolution of protests related to nearly every aspect of federal procurement spending. His exceptional professionalism, integrity, and dedication have been recognized by numerous awards throughout his GAO career, including GAO's Distinguished Service award in 2013 and the General Counsel's Award in March 2010 for outstanding leadership.

Under Mr. White's leadership, the GAO bid protest process has increased public confidence in the transparency, accountability, and functionality of the U.S. federal acquisition system. We thank him for his commitment and service to the Nation.

HONORING TEACHER
APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to commend and honor the extraordinary teachers in California's 44th Congressional District and across the United States.

Teacher Appreciation Week is an annual celebration of educators and the remarkable contributions they make in the lives of our students, parents, schools, and communities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Nation's teachers innovated the education system to create new ways to connect and care for their students during times of uncertainty during both remote and in-person learning.

And our teachers have done all of this while they care for themselves and their own families.

Despite these challenges, teachers across the country continue to show up day after day to inspire, empower, and motivate their students.

I'd like to highlight two of my district's extraordinary teachers: Audrey Casas and Youko Amemiya and share a bit more about some of their accomplishments.

Audrey Casas is a passionate, brilliant, and community-focused Teach for America teacher in Los Angeles. During the pandemic she noticed some of her students and their families struggled to secure basic necessities, which led her to start working in the community to gather resources. Her success led to a nonprofit that she now runs in addition to her job teaching. She is passionate about student-led practices and integrates many student-led projects into her teaching. Audrey's classroom is a safe space for kids and is often packed at lunchtime with her students including the ones she doesn't teach, to take part in "lunch club." Some days the kids just hangout while they eat their personal lunches, and other days kids and their families will bring food to share. She constantly celebrates her students and fellow staff, from teachers to custodians to administrators, and is a known light on her

campus, in her community, and in Lynwood. She was selected as Teacher of the Month by her students and her efforts were recognized by her school, district, and other regional news publications.

Youko Amemiya is an enthusiastic and accomplished teacher in the City of Carson, who is dedicated to her students, her school, and her community. She has instilled a vision of climate awareness at her school site with the development of her school's Roots and Shoots Club. At the beginning of the year, she wanted to teach her students about caring for the environment by planting 100 trees throughout the community in honor of the school's 100-year anniversary. Her students and community rallied behind her and helped to plant over 200 trees. Mrs. Amemiya is also committed to helping beautify her school. Through her tireless work reaching out to community partners and applying to grants, she was able to secure planters, benches, trees, soil, and various plants to make her school shine. She has been a positive influence on her classroom, her Roots and Shoots Club students, and the larger Carson community.

These are just two of the teachers in my district who make a profound impact on their students.

Teacher Appreciation Week is a time to celebrate the contributions of educators.

It's also a time to call for the policies and practices that will attract exceptional leaders to the teaching profession and support them throughout their career.

We must break down the barriers that prevent individuals from pursuing teaching careers and make concerted efforts to retain talented and effective teachers.

We need to create the conditions which allow teachers to grow, lead, and truly thrive in their profession.

And, in many instances—it means paying them higher salaries. We cannot prioritize our students, without prioritizing our teachers.

So, on this occasion of Teacher Appreciation Week, to the teachers in my district, I thank them for leading with ingenuity, resilience, and passion each and every day in their classrooms, and for their commitment to our students.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
TONY DIMARE

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible career of my good friend Tony Dimare. Going back to my days as Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Tony has been a pillar of leadership in the agricultural community of South Florida for over thirty years and I am honored to join the Dade County Farm Bureau in recognizing him and all he has done for the agriculture industry.

Tony Dimare began working for his family's business in 1983 and has worked in the produce industry for nearly forty years. His family's business, The Dimare Company, is a 94-year-old family produce company four generations deep with operations in four states—Florida, California, Pennsylvania, and Texas. He has taken his family's business to another

level and has created countless jobs in South Florida and across the country.

Along with bringing countless jobs to South Florida, Mr. Dimare serves on countless boards and does philanthropic work for South Florida. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, one of the organizations he serves on hosted daily food drives to help families experiencing food insecurity in the Miami-Dade County area. Mr. Dimare has always proven to be an integral part of the community.

I am always honored to recognize individuals who spend their lives bringing invaluable services to the South Florida and District 26 communities. Tony and I have worked together throughout the years, and I am certain he will continue to be a strong leader in the agricultural industry and in the community.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY SILICON VALLEY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the San Mateo County Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau on the 50th anniversary of its founding. It was 50 years ago that the Space Shuttle program was officially launched. It was fitting that the convention and visitors bureau began at that same time because the hope was to boost hotel occupancy to stratospheric levels, and to entice conventions to the fairgrounds in the City of San Mateo. It worked.

As the local economy transitioned away from agriculture and towards high technology, the fairgrounds became the site of a national semiconductor convention—SEMICON—and since that time has hosted hundreds of business and nonprofit events. Hotel rooms available in San Mateo County have exploded, from 81 hotels and 5,972 rooms in the Convention and Visitors Bureau when it was first formed to 140 hotels and 15,794 rooms today.

The economic impact of our visitor-serving industries is enormous. Pre-pandemic, the sector generated \$4.5 billion in visitor spending and well over \$500 million in local tax revenue. It employed 45,000 people. The bureau doesn't claim credit for all of these jobs or the money spent but given the reach of its promotional efforts it certainly has an impact. For decades, the bureau represented its membership at national shows dedicated to explaining to convention organizers the benefits of coming to San Mateo County. Many conventions came and tens of thousands of tourists annually are typically greeted in their hotels and event locations by further promotional advertisements for local attractions.

The San Mateo County Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau has been an indispensable source of information for me during the pandemic. Under the leadership of its outstanding President and CEO, John Hutar, the organization arranged for owners and managers to explain the steps they were taking to keep their doors open, or to avoid going into foreclosure, during the emergency. I was proud to be able to vote for the Paycheck Protection Program, EIDL loans and restaurant

relief, all of which nourished this sector when the pandemic threatened to permanently destroy the industry in San Mateo County. For example, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund brought \$214 million in relief to almost 500 San Mateo County restaurants. I held many meetings with bureau members and listened closely as they explained their concerns.

Madam Speaker, San Mateo County is the site of many amazing companies including those that discover new treatments for cancer or diabetes, program and design electric vehicles, arrange electronic payments for trillions of dollars in transactions annually, and that provide amazing medical care to our entire population. Key to our local quality of life are our visitor-serving hotel and restaurant providers. Not only do they serve visitors, but they provide fine service to residents, and jobs for tens of thousands. It is my honor to recognize those who help create jobs by shouting to the mountain tops the benefits of doing busi-

ness in San Mateo County. It is a testament to their skill that today they are financially surviving and focusing on the next decades after the pandemic clears. I honor the men and women of the San Mateo County Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau and their board of directors for giving their all on behalf of us all during a time that has tried us all. Bravo.

RECOGNIZING ENSIGN NICOLE
SPOHN'S GRADUATION FROM
THE CITADEL MILITARY COL-
LEGE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible young woman

from my district, United States Navy Ensign Nicole Spohn. It is my honor to announce that on May 6, 2022, Ensign Spohn commissioned into the United States Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer. Ensign Spohn commissioned out of The Citadel Military College of South Carolina where she received numerous awards and distinctions. Among these honors was a cumulative GPA of 3.94, being named on the Dean's List in every semester, and serving as a Cadet Company Commander. Our community is immensely proud of and humbled by Ensign Spohn's dedication to our country and I wish her great success with her career in the Navy.